LOVE FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAH

From that which is known necessarily in Islam is the heart is to follow 'Aqedah and Iman, so whoever has Iman in Allah as his lord, Islam as his religion and way of life (Deen) and in Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) as the Messenger, then he must necessarily love whoever loves Allah. Therefore, loving for Allah is an obligation upon the Muslim.

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"THERE ARE NO TWO PERSONS WHO HAVE MUTUAL LOVE FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAH, THE MIGHTY AND MAGNIFICENT, OR FOR ISLAM, AND THEN SEPARATION IS CAUSED BETWEEN THEM EXCEPT BY A SIN COMMITTED BY ONE OF THEM."
(Bukharee 401 & Musnad Imam Ahmad, Vol 2, Page 68)

There are some people who think that loving is an affair of the heart only and that a person is unable to have any control over it, so how is he able to cause himself to love one another?

Loving for Allah is one of the great doors leading to the good of the Hereafter and a cause of tasting the sweetness of Iman in this world.

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"NONE OF YOU WILL TRULY BELIEVE UNTIL HE LOVES FOR HIS BROTHER (THE GOOD) THAT HE LOVES FOR HIMSELF."
(Bukharee, Eng Trans, Vol 1, Page 19, Hadeeth 12 & Muslim, Eng Trans, Vol 1, Page 31, Hadeeth 72)

Love is having affection. A person may love another for their wealth, or their beauty, or honour or lineage, or for personal gain, or for a worldly desire or fleeting aim.

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

“There are three characteristics whoever has them will find the sweetness of Iman: That Allah and His Messenger are more beloved to him than all else; that he loves a person and does not love him except for Allah; and that he would hate to revert to unbelief just as he would hate to be thrown into the fire.”
(Bukharee, Vol 1, Page 60 of Al-Fath & Muslim, Vol 2, Page 13-14 of An Nawawi)

All of these reasons are detestable in Islam. Which has laid down the reasons for loving? And it is the deen. Therefore, the Muslim does not love a person except for the correctness of his Deen.

Allah, the one free of all defects and the most high, through his mercy, gathered the hearts of the believers upon obedience to him.

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

And if they intend to deceive you, then verily, Allah is All-Sufficient for you. He it is Who has supported you with His Help and with the believers. And He has united their (i.e. believers’) hearts. If you had spent all that is in the earth, you could not have united their hearts, but Allah has united them. Certainly, He is All-Mighty, All-Wise. O Prophet (Muhammad)! Allah is Sufficient for you and for the believers who follow you (Surah Al Anfal 8:62-64)

The deen prescribed by Allah, the one free from all imperfections, alone is that which will set the feet firmly, bind the hearts and bring together upon the word of Tawheed, since it is the way to unity.

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

Close friends, that Day, will be enemies to each other, except for the righteous
(Surah Az Zukhruf 43:67)

Indeed, the enmity between these friends’ springs from the source of their worldly love of one another since they united upon evil, and were indulgent with regards to one another’s misguidance.

Narrated By Anas Ibn Malik (رضي الله عنه) that,

A man said to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم), "When will the Hour be, O Messenger of Allah?"

He replied, "What have you prepared for it?"

He said: "I have not prepared for it a great deal of prayer or charity, but I love Allah and his messenger." He (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said, "You will be those whom you love."
(Bukharee, Eng Trans, Vol 8, Page 123-124, Hadeeth 192 & Muslim, Eng Trans, Vol 4, Page 1386, Hadeeth 6378)

Indeed, the true slave of Allah is the one who is pleased by that which pleasing to Allah and His Messenger Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم), and who is displeased with whatever is displeasing to Allah and His Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم).

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"There are seven whom Allah will shade in His shade on the Day when there is no shade except His shade: The just ruler; a youth who grew up upon the worship of His Lord; a man whose heart attached to the mosques; two men who love each other only for Allah's sake – meeting and parting for that; a man whom a woman of noble birth and beauty calls to commit fornication but he (refuses) and says: "I fear Allah"; a man who gives charity secretly so that his left hand does not know what his right hand gives; and a man who remembers Allah in private and his eyes flood with tears."
(Bukharee, Eng Trans, Vol 1, Page 356, Hadeeth 629 & Muslim, Eng Trans, Vol 2, Page 493, Hadeeth 2248)

IMPORTANCE OF LOVING FOR ALLAH

Loving for Allah's sake has the place of being the firmest handhold in the bond of Iman.

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

Indeed, the firmest handhold from Iman is that you love for Allah and hate for Allah."
(Musnad Imam Ahmad, Vol 4, Page 286)

WAYS TO STRENGTHEN ONE'S LOVE FOR ALLAH'S SAKE

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"If one of you loves his brother then let him tells him that he loves him."
(Bukharee 542; Abu Dawud 5124 & Tirmidhi 2502)

Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) informed that this will cause familiarity and friendship to endure, and establish love more firmly.

SPREADING THE GREETING OF SALAAM

The greetings with salaam remove any feelings of alienation or fear and hearts therefore come together for Allah's sake.

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"You will not enter paradise until you believe (have Iman), and you will not believe (have Iman) until you love one another. Shall I not guide you to something which if you carry out you will love one another. Spread as -Salaam amongst yourselves."
(Saheeh Muslim, Eng Trans, Vol 1, Page 37, Hadeeth 96)

GIVING GIFT

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"Give gifts and you will love one another"
(Bukharee 594 & Al- Bayhaqi, Vol 6, Page 169)

VISITING

Visiting someone too frequently will cause him to tire of it, the more frequently that one visits then more tired of it he will become.

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"Visit now and again – your love will increase."
(Al Bazzaar & Saheehul Jami

MODERATION IN LOVE

Taking the middle course involves all aspects of Islam even with regards to feelings, emotions and affections.

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"Love the one whom you love in moderation perhaps one day he will be one whom you hate, and hate the one whom you hate in moderation perhaps one day he will be one whom you love."
(Saheehul Jami 176; Tirmidhi & Ghaayatul Maraam 472)

Umar Ibn Al-Khattab (رضي الله عنه) said:

"O Aslam do not love beyond due bounds, nor hate maliciously." He asked, "How is that?" He replied, "When you love then do not be like a child besotted with something, and if you hate then do not hate to the extent that you wish your companion to perish and be destroyed."
(Bukharee 1322; Al Musannaf 30269 & Al Baghawi, Vol 13, Page 65)

PERSISTING IN OBEDIENCE AND IN DESISTING FROM SIN

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"If Allah loves a servant, He calls Jibril saying: That Allah loves so and so, therefore love him. So Jibril loves him and Jibril calls to the inhabitants of the Heaven: Allah loves so and, therefore loves him. Then he is granted the pleasure of the people on the earth."
(Bukharee, Eng Trans, Vol 4, Page 291, Hadeeth 431 & Muslim, Eng Trans, Vol 4, Page 1385, Hadeeth 6373)

VIRTUES OF LOVING FOR ALLAH

Allah, the magnificent, loves those who love one another for His sake

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"Allah, the most High said: My love is due for those who love one another for my sake…"
(Musnad Imam Ahmad, Vol 5, Page 229 & Al Hakeem, Vol 4, Page 169)

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"A man went to visit a brother of his in another town and Allah deputed and angel to await him on his way, so when he came to him, he said, "Where are you going?" He replied, "I am going to visit a brother of mine in this town." He said, "Have you done him some favour which you desire to be returned?" He said, "No, it is just that I love him for Allah, the Mighty and Magnificent." He said, "Then I am a messenger sent by Allah to you (to inform you) that Allah loves you as you have loved him for His sake."
(Muslim, Eng Trans, Vol 4, Page 1362, Hadeeth 6226)

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"Allah will say on the Day of Resurrection: Where are those who had mutual love for my Glory's sake. Today I will shade them in my shade on the Day when there is no shade except My shade…"
(Muslim, Eng Trans, Vol 4, Page 1362, Hadeeth 6225)

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"Allah, the Mighty and magnificent, says: Those who have mutual love for the sake of my Glory will have pillars of light and will be envied by the prophets and martyrs."
(Tirmidhi 2390 & Musnad Imam Ahmad, Vol 5, Page 236-237)

THOSE WHO HAVE MUTUAL LOVE FOR ALLAH'S SAKE WILL HAVE NO FEAR

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"Whoever would like to taste the sweetness of Iman then let him love a person, not loving him except for Allah's sake."
(Musnad Imam Ahmad, Vol 2, Page 298, Al Hakeem, Vol 1, Page 3 and Vol 4, Page 168)

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"When one of you loves his companion then let him go to him in his house and tell him that he loves him for the sake of Allah, the Mighty and Magnificent."
(Az Zuhd 712 & Al Jami, Page 36)

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"He who loves for Allah and hates for Allah; and gives for Allah and withholds for Allah – perfected Iman."
(Abu Dawud, Eng Trans, Vol 3, Page 1312, Hadeeth 3664, Tirmidhi 2521 & Musnad Iman Ahmad, Vol 3, Page 438, 440)

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"There are no two men who love one another for the sake of Allah, the blessed and the most high, except that the better of the two is the one whose love for his companion is stronger."
(Bukharee 544, Ibn Hibban 2509, Al Hakeem, Vol 4, Page 171 & Sharhus Sunnah, Vol 13, Page 52)

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"Indeed, from the servants of Allah there are some who are not prophets, yet they will be envied by the prophets and martyrs." It was said, "Who are they, that we may love them?" he (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said, "They are people who have mutual love through light from Allah, not due to kinship or ancestry, their faces will be enlightened, upon pillars of light, they will not fear when the people fear, nor grieve when the people grieve." Then he (صلى الله عليه و سلم) recited:
No doubt! Verily, the Auliyâ' of Allah [i.e. those who believe in the Oneness of Allah and fear Allah much (abstain from all kinds of sins and evil deeds which he has forbidden), and love Allah much (perform all kinds of good deeds which He has ordained)], no fear shall come upon them nor shall they grieve
(Surah Yunus 10:62)
(Ibn Hibban & Al Mawaarid 2508)